

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 164397

FOL REPEAT PARIS 17949 SENT ACTION SECSTATE GENEVA INFO BONN
CAIRO DAMASCUS LONDON ROME TEL AVIV JULY 10, 1975

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 17949

FOR THE SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XF, SY, IS, EG

SUBJECT: EC-9 MIDDLE EAST DECLARATION

REF : ROME 9876

SUMMARY: IN A MEETING AT THE QUAI TODAY SENIOR DEPART-
MENT AND FRENCH OFFICIALS REVIEWED EC-9 ACTIVITIES WITH
RESPECT TO ARAB-ISRAELI PROBLEM. FRENCH OFFICIALS IN-
DICATED EC-9 MEETING STUDIED IDEA OF DRAFTING DECLARA-
TION ON THE MIDDLE EAST, FOLLOWING LINE OF NOVEMBER 1973
ANALOGOUS DOCUMENT, FOR CONTINGENCY USE IN THE EVENT
STEP BY STEP SEARCH FOR INTERIM AGREEMENT BECOMES
IMMOBILIZED. END SUMMARY.

1. IN MEETING AT QUAI D'ORSAY WHICH TOOK PLACE DURING
SECRETARY'S AND AMBASSADOR'S MEETING WITH FOREIGN MIN-
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ISTER SAUVAGNARGUES AND PRESIDENT GISCARD, COUNSELOR

SONNENFELDT, ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON, DIRECTOR POLICY PLANNING LORD WITH DIRECTOR FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS DE LABOULAYE, AND DIRECTOR NEAR EAST AFFAIRS CERLES, DISCUSSED EC-9 POLITICAL DIRECTORS RECENT MEETING IN ROME. LABOULAYE STATED MEETING, AT GERMAN SUGGESTION, REVIEWED IDEA DRAFTING JOINT EC-9 DECLARATION ON MIDDLE EAST FOR USE IN EVENT OF NEGOTIATING BREAKDOWN. LABOULAYE AGREED WITH SONNEMFELDT THAT TIMING OF ANY EC-9 DECLARATION WAS OF SUPREME IMPORTANCE. HE EXPRESSED FRENCH VIEW, HOWEVER, THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO HAVE A DRAFT DECLARATION READY FOR USE BY THE NINE IF IT BECAME APPARENT ME NEGOTIATIONS WOULD HAVE TO RETURN TO GENEVA FOLLOWING A FAILURE OF THE STEP BY STEP APPROACH TO PRODUCE AN INTERIM SINAI AGREEMENT. HE INDICATED FRENCH BELIEVED THAT THE DECLARATION'S CONTENT WOULD BE LARGELY A RECONFIRMATION OF THE PRINCIPLES CONTAINED IN THE GROUP'S NOVEMBER 1973 DECLARATION

2. SONNENFELDT AND LORD STATED THAT THE SECRETARY ZELIEVED USE OF SUCH A DECLARATION NOW WOULD BE "PREMATURE." SONNENFELDT EXPRESSED GRAVE CONCERN AT POSSIBILITY OF LEAKAGE OF EVEN A DRAFT EC-9 NE ME DECLARATION. LABOULAYE RESPONDED THAT FACT OF EC-9 INTEREST IN NEW DECALARATION ALREADY KNOWN SINCE ISRAELI DIPLOMATS HAD IMQUIRED ANXIOUSLY OF SEVERAL EC-9 MEMBERS. SONNENFELDT STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF CONSULTATION WITH USG BOTH ON CONTENT AND ON TIMING OF ANY SUCH DECLARATION AND REITERATED IMPORTANCE OF KEEPING SUBJECT OUT OF THE PRESS. ATHERTON NOTED THAT NOVEMBER 1973 DECLARATION WAS GENERALLY VIEWED AS EUROPEAN ENDORSEMENT OF A PARTICULAR INTERPRETATION OF UN RESOLUTION 242, WHICH AT THAT TIME WAS DECIDEDLY UNHELPFUL TO US EFFORTS WITH ISRAELIS TO PRODUCE GREATER GOI FLEXIBILITY, SINCE ISRAELIS SAW 1973 DECLARATION AS ESSENTIALLY PRO-ARAB AND RESPONDED BY HARDENING OF THEIR POSITION.
RUSH

UNQUOTE. INGERSOLL

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